

based off the rough facts [here](#)

note - only the ages with a * in front of them are certain, all others could give or take one year, since we don't know Roland's birthday and are working from relative years ('this happened 5 years after that other thing', etc) and hints whose wording is up for interpretation, and all that stuff

*age 11 - He has recently formally begun his gunslinger apprenticeship. He and Cuthbert hear Hax, a cook who was always kinder to them than any other adult in their lives, being given orders from the rebel leader the Good Man, turn Hax in for treason, and watch his execution.

*age 14 -

stage 1) Marten goads Roland by showing off his power over (and affair with) Roland's mother, at which point Roland goes for the manhood test, meaning to earn his guns and kill Marten. He sacrifices his hawk David's life to win the fight against his teacher Cort, earns those guns, and promptly goes to Cort's favorite brothel and has sex for the first time. The morning after, his father arrives unexpectedly (having been in the west in somewhere named Cressia looking for the Good Man), tells Roland he knows about the affair, and sends him to Mejis for a while so he'll be safe from Marten.

stage 2) In Hambry, a village in the barony of Mejis, Roland meets the girl he will always think of as the love of his life, Susan Delgado. Eventually he, Alain, Cuthbert, and Susan manage, amidst the dumpster fire that is Roland Deschain's love life, to avert a plot by the Good Man to steal Hambry's oil to power a bunch of old vehicles to use in the war. Roland and his friends kill for the first time; Susan gets shoved into a metaphorical fridge.

stage 3) Roland is pressured by Alain and Cuthbert to give the evil all-seeing magic artifact they stole from Rhea/from the Good Man's forces - whose power he, in his grief over Susan, has sort of become addicted to - up to his father and he does it, but not before looking in it one more time and seeing that his mother is planning to assassinate his father Steven. He goes to talk to her and is tricked into killing her. That magic artifact, in book four, shows Eddie, Susannah, and Jake a vision of Rhea saying that she tricked Roland into doing it on purpose, as revenge. It's not clear in the narration whether Roland heard/saw Rhea saying that, although he does say some time before this flashback that Rhea followed him back to Gilead so I think it's safeish to presume that he did. At any rate he knows, either then or later, that she is the one who tricked him, though that doesn't have much of an effect on his feelings of guilt.

between 14 and 24 Roland, along with at least Cuthbert, Jamie, and Sheemie (I'm assuming Alain was there too), set out looking for the Dark Tower, the fabled center of existence, for the first time. (I can't decide if he'd have done that during the war or not - if not I'd guess he'd have done it around age 15.)

between ages 14 and 21 -

according to book 1, some time between Roland's 14th and 21st year Steven is killed by a knife (the post-Hambry assassination plan Roland foiled, maybe notably, maybe not, was also meant to be with a knife). I tend to assume this happened during the fall of Gilead.

- revised version says it happened by Roland's 16th year

- original version says it happened by Roland's 21st year

two years before Gilead's fall the Presentation Ceremony for Roland's class of no-longer-apprentice gunslingers takes place. Nine weeks after that ceremony, Cort dies. (I get the impression that the idea that it's poison could never be proven - exact wording is that he died, "of poison, some said".) The graduating class

has to go to Cort's cottage to complete it since "for the first time in thirty years, Cort had not been present at the Ceremonies", presumably b/c he was being poisoned at the time. That or the brain damage Roland gave Cort in his manhood test was fucking him up. Or both. In any case, unless we do some stretching to explain the Cort's cottage thing this probably happened before the fall of Gilead.

age 16 - according to book 4, Gilead falls about twenty months after Roland gets back from Hambry. Worth noting that the same conflicting dates which gave us the possibilities for Steven's death also gave us some vague wording about "the land" (presumably Gilead because we know the final battle of the war itself wasn't until Cuthbert's 24th year, and according to Wizard and Glass Roland and Cuthbert teed together so they're the sameish age) falling by those same 16th or 21st year dates.

cue 8 years of Roland leading a war by himself? Starting at age sixteen??? Hopefully Steven was there until he was 21, that latest possible date for Steven's death, although I tend to assume Steven was killed at Gilead. It's possible some of the other older gunslingers were there until at least before Jericho Hill too, but they're never mentioned. I tend to assume Roland was leading his side of the war effort from that time on even though I don't really want to because shit how is this poor guy even remotely emotionally healthy.

age 24 - Alain rode back to Roland's camp one night after midnight to tell them DeMullet's column had been ambushed and slaughtered at Rimrock, and presumably to warn them about something because Roland thinks that Alain "could have ridden on to safety, but chose not to" so Alain certainly knew he was coming back to something dangerous, whether that something was a battle they knew about or something else they didn't. (He was warning them about some kind of ambush that led to the events of the following day, but that's never stated outright I think?) Roland and Cuthbert, due to "a stupid error", shoot and kill him.

The next day Roland and his friends fight at Jericho Hill. I don't know how their numbers start out but they end up being enormously outnumbered. Jamie is shot by a sniper and at some point near the end Cuthbert notes that Roland and he are the only two gunslingers left, although I think there are more people fighting on their side. Cuthbert is shot several times, finally killed by a shot fired by an in-disguise Flagg/Marten which got him through the eye. Roland says in book 1 that no one won the war, so presumably the "barbaric remnants of John Farson's army" are either mercenaries and not part of the army proper or are just not organized enough to constitute representing any sort of civilization in Roland's mind. They and Roland are the only ones left alive after Jericho Hill, and at some point Roland "had been able to escape, having buried himself in a cart filled with the dead and then creeping out of the slaughterpile at sundown, just before the whole works had been set alight".

age 24? - goes back to the ruins of Gilead briefly, begins searching for the Man in

Black/Flagg/Marten/whatever the hell we're calling him right after. Flagg, as he says in book 7, was in disguise at Jericho Hill and never mentions Roland finding him there, so anything regarding what caused Roland to believe that the Man in Black was worth tracking down (whether for revenge or for news about the Tower, I don't know) would just be assumption. Revised 1st book says he glimpsed the Man in Black before his search, so maybe something went down. I'm not clear on whether Roland knew about some (not all, because he only learns some of it when they talk in the revised 1st book, but maybe some?) of Flagg's multiple fake identities, or if so when he learned, so his motivation for thinking he needs to find the Man in Black is unclear.

extra note: The original book 1 says that 12 years ago he left a girl in a place called King's Town, which lines up with the time I've figured Jericho Hill happened/he started his search for the Man in Black. So I'm probably going to headcanon that King's Town is where he recuperates after Jericho Hill. He ascribes leaving this unnamed girl to one of the parts of his life which collectively made up the process of him growing up, and

in the revised book 1 says leaving her was the last part of it. That would make a lot of sense if he left her in order to start his quest in earnest.

min age 28, max age 32, so I'm going to say about age 30 - the sisters of Eluria short story happens. Nothing particularly plot significant happens here, technically, but it's a good snapshot of this transitional phase of that whole process of him becoming emotionally closed off which we know happened before book 1.

age 36 - has traveled west tracking the Man in Black for likely 12 years. The first version of book 1 says it's been 12 years, by the time of that book, since he's seen his home which he did immediately before searching for Flagg and, presumably, soon after the end of the war. Book 3 says he's been traveling for 20 years and moving for most of that time - he does not specify exactly when he starts counting that 20 from, but he says he spent some of it moving away from John Farson. If he counts the 20 years from age 14 (or 16, when Gilead fell and when he probably started fighting the war?) to his present, and counts the 12 years from when he set out from a post-war Gilead, that actually lines up. (Or does it? I always get confused when I try to do this shit.)

(Note - his meeting at the end of book 1 with the Man in Black physically ages him about ten years, although this doesn't change actual age, aka the number of years he is aware of experiencing.)

The revised first edition says it's been an "unknown" number of years since he's seen his home. For now I'm saying that Roland himself has lost track of time - since time in general in his world is out of whack and no one really keeps track of years at all by that point, him not being sure of the exact time frame wouldn't be weird. This edition also says it's been twelve years since his last "glimpse" of the man in black, although I'm too confused to figure out if that means anything for Roland's timeline.